



In the Matter of:

Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site

Groundwater Remedy

Proposed Plan

(Illinois EPA File No. 427-95)

Responsiveness Summary

OVERVIEW

In accordance with Section 117, 42 U.S.C. Section 9617, of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA or Agency) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) held a public comment period from July 14, 1995 through August 16, 1995, to allow interested parties to comment on the "Proposed Plan - Groundwater Response Action, Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Site, Rockford, Illinois" (July 1995).

Illinois EPA, with USEPA, presented the Proposed Plan at two public meetings on August 1, 1995, and two formal public hearing sessions on August 9, 1995. Both the public meetings and public hearings were held in Rockford at the Ken-Rock Community Center, with sessions repeated afternoon and evening for the convenience of the public.

The purpose of this responsiveness summary is to document the Agency's responses to comments received during the public comment period. These comments were considered prior to selection of a final remedy for groundwater contamination at the Southeast Rockford Site. The remedy is detailed in Illinois EPA's Record of Decision, with USEPA's concurrence.

BACKGROUND OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CONCERNS

BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INTEREST. The Illinois EPA (Agency) has been responsible for conducting community relations during the investigation for the drinking water operable unit (Operable Unit 1) and during Phase I and Phase II of the Remedial Investigation and Groundwater Feasibility Study (Operable Unit 2). The Agency will continue this role through the completion of the source area investigations and feasibility studies (Operable Unit 3).

The site first came to the attention of the Illinois EPA with a citizen's complaint that plating waste had been dumped in an abandoned well. Subsequent tests of nearby private wells did not detect plating wastes but did find chlorinated solvents commonly used in industry for such things as degreasing machinery. A meeting held in 1984 by The Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois EPA drew a crowd of approximately 200. Ongoing concern, however, did not appear to surface until the site was placed on the National Priorities List in 1989, and financial institutions began refusing home mortgage and improvement loans in the area.

During the first operable unit, many citizens resisted the idea of connections to the public water supply, because, in order to receive the hookup, they had to sign an agreement to be annexed into the City of Rockford if their property became contiguous to city property. That issue is no longer a major concern, since nearly all of the area proposed for public water connections has now been annexed by the City of Rockford.

KEY ISSUES. The main issues raised during the groundwater feasibility study and proposed plan comment period are summarized below.

Issue #1. Residents who live in the area where the proposed plan calls only for the extension of water mains and not the constructions of service lines are concerned that their well water may be unsafe and that the remedy may not protect them.

Issue #2. Several residents who live in the area where the proposed plan calls only for the extension of water mains and not the construction of service lines think that the plan is unfair because the dividing lines are drawn in the middle of streets with those on one side and not the other receiving service connections. In addition, residents who look at the maps note that the dividing lines between those receiving public water connections and those who do not is irregular. These residents assert that since the dividing line does not reflect the natural flow of groundwater that the lines are arbitrarily drawn.

Issue #3. Residents who live in the area where mains and service connections will be provided are concerned that they will have to pay for the mains and connections if their wells fail before construction begins in late 1996. One woman has called the Agency since the public hearing saying that her well has collapsed. She is not allowed to drill a new well and cannot afford the public water supply connection since she lives on less than \$500 per month.

Issue #4. A number of people are concerned about methods of paying for the investigations and remedies. Several citizens expressed concern that responsible parties be found and made to pay. One woman on the TCE registry who is experiencing persistent bladder infections also wants responsible parties to pay for her medical bills.

Business groups and the City of Rockford, on the other hand, are proposing that the City assume the liability for past, present, and future costs so the Rockford industries do not become involved in extensive and costly litigation to determine liability. Under the City's plan, costs would be paid by funds raised by the special taxing district for area industry.

Issue #5. Business groups are concerned that the proposed remedy was based on the assumption of source area control, and the type of source area remedy will not be decided upon until after source area investigations are complete. Without knowing the type of source area control, the future costs are open-ended at this point. This uncertainty may make it difficult to convince industries to accept the concept of a special taxing district on industry as a sustainable method of paying for the remedy.

Issue #6. A number of people expressed concern about the proposed monitoring requirements. Business groups expressed concern that 200 years of monitoring is an excessive requirement. Many residents, on the other hand, expressed the need for continued sampling of monitoring wells at a frequency that would detect the movement of contaminated groundwater before it reaches their private wells.

Issue #7. The majority of respondents supports the proposed plan and asked questions about

conditions of the public water hookups (e.g., may I keep my pump?). They urged that the connections be made as soon as possible.

MODIFICATIONS. The Illinois EPA recognizes that this site covers a large area. The mailing list includes over 4,000 addresses which cover a number of different neighborhoods as well as varying interest groups. In order to be responsive to this large and varied group of citizens, the Illinois EPA made a number of modifications designed to interact with people in smaller groups where it was easier to focus on the specific concerns of a particular group. Detailed listing of community relations activities can be found in Attachment A. The following activities are among the more major modifications.

(1) Shortly after the site was finalized on the National Priorities List, the USEPA began testing private wells as part of a removal action and providing bottled water to those who met the criteria. Citizens became alarmed about the safety of their water, and rumors abounded about the Agencies' alleged role in denial of home mortgage and home improvement loans. There were also suspicions that the Illinois EPA and USEPA were in conspiracy with the City of Rockford to force public water connections and thereby annexation into the City. Southeast Neighborhood Development (SEND) focused media attention on this anger, fear, and suspicion, holding a public meeting attended by 200.

Illinois EPA Response: The Illinois EPA met with leaders of SEND and solicited their help in holding a series of nine public meetings in which the USEPA removal action staff participated to disseminate information and respond to concerns. These meetings were attended by a total of more than 500 people. The Illinois EPA has continued to work with SEND throughout the process.

(2) At several points in the process, public officials requested notification of major events and releases of information before the news is published in the newspaper.

Illinois EPA Response: The Illinois EPA has notified local, state, and federal officials before major releases of information, usually offering officials an opportunity for a private briefing. The Illinois EPA continually updated the list of contacts as the study area expanded and new officials were elected.

(3) When the investigative work identified Area 7 as a major area of concern, leaders of the nearby Pine Manor Association expressed a need for detailed information about investigative results and plans. They were especially concerned about the basement air sampling.

Illinois EPA Response: The Illinois EPA regularly briefed Pine Manor Association leaders prior to monitoring well installation and other work in Area 7 and wrote fact sheets, updates and letters focusing on work conducted in Area 7, including basement air sampling. Upon request, Illinois EPA held a small informal meeting for the residents of Pine Manor Subdivision to focus on results of work conducted in Area 7.

(4) The Rockford business community expressed an interest in current information on the project.

Illinois EPA Response: In addition to sending interested parties the regular fact sheets, the Illinois EPA has also given presentations to the Environmental Committee of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce when requested. During the first round of meetings in 1989, the Illinois EPA also held a special meeting for area businesses to discuss their particular concerns.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED REMEDY

Comment: The community had many questions about the method of deciding who would receive public water connections and who would not.

Response: Decisions about who would and who would not receive public water connections were based upon a computer prediction or model. The method for making this prediction is as follows: Sample results from monitoring and private wells, along with information on the groundwater direction, groundwater movement rates, and other site characteristics, were fed into a computer. The computer used this data to give a picture of predicted areas of groundwater contamination over a 70-year lifetime, assuming that remedies for source areas would be provided later. The Illinois EPA and USEPA chose to base public water connections on the area predicted, within the next 70 years, to have a total of at least five parts per billion of two of the most common solvents in the Superfund area: 1,1,1-trichloroethane and 1,1-dichloroethane. The USEPA public water supply standard for 1,1,1-trichloroethane is 200 parts per billion. There is no standard for 1,1-dichloroethane. As the Illinois EPA gathers more information from regular monitoring well sampling in the future, it will refine the model (prediction) making it increasingly accurate as time passes.

Comment: A citizen, in the "mains only" area with a business in the 3300 block of 11th Street, stated that the southern boundary of the hookup area did not make sense. Specifically, the boundary between those who will receive public water and those who will not, runs down the middle of 11th Street. In addition, this boundary jogs north for one half block, west for three blocks, then south for one block, etc. This line does not reflect the reality of groundwater flow.

Response: The Agency acknowledges that groundwater does not move at right angles as streets do. The zig-zagged lines in that area represent the limits of the buffer zones that were added to the area predicted to have a total of at least five parts per billion of the two of the most prevalent contaminants (mentioned above) within the next 70 years. In general, the Illinois EPA added a one block buffer zone to the predicted area of contamination. In places where there were fewer monitoring wells to sample and thus a weaker data base, the Illinois EPA added two or more blocks for a buffer zone as a precaution. The buffer zone has a zig zag boundary because the buffer zone additions were made by city blocks as a practical measure since water mains are laid down the streets.

The Agency can understand why a division down the middle of the street seems unfair, but a dividing line must be drawn somewhere, and the nature of a boundary is that those on one side would receive connections, and those on the other side would not.

Question: Will citizens in the "mains only" zone be forced to wait until contamination actually reaches their well before they will be given a free connection to the Rockford Public Water Supply?

Response: No, they won't. The Illinois EPA plans to sample monitoring wells quarterly. If contaminants reach the monitoring wells at concentrations of concern, the Illinois EPA will offer public water supply connections to those residents with private wells in the path of groundwater flow before the contamination reaches their private wells. The criteria for future hookups will be the same as that used by the Agency to justify the hookups in the area slated to receive them next year.

Question: Does the Illinois EPA know if the water in the "mains only" area is safe to drink?

Response: From all the available data, it is safe to drink. The groundwater contamination will move over time, but the computer model predicts it will not move into the area designated "mains only" in harmful concentrations for 70 years. Monitoring wells will be placed in your area that will provide continually updated information about contaminant levels and movement. If future sampling results indicate contamination is moving into unanticipated areas and poses a potential health threat to residents in the "mains only" area, potentially affected residences will be connected to the City water supply at that time. If residents have questions about particular sample results, they should contact staff assigned to this project. Names and numbers are listed at the end of this document.

Question: How can the Illinois EPA know if a water from a specific well is safe if it has never been tested?

Response: While not all private wells have been sampled in the area, numerous wells have been sampled. Because of Illinois EPA's knowledge about the direction and rate of area groundwater flow and information about the geology beneath ground surface, every well in the area does not have to be tested in order to make a judgement about the safety of its water. Refer to the map of anticipated movement of contamination (attachment B). All the information gathered to date indicates that those outside of the large white plume area will not have more than a total of five parts per billion of two of the most prevalent chemicals within the next 70 years. The federal drinking water standards for one of the chemicals is 200 parts per billion. The other chemical does not have a drinking water standard.

The Illinois EPA will continue to monitor groundwater regularly. If, contrary to predictions, sample results show that contamination is unexpectedly moving into areas which were predicted to be unaffected, those with wells that are in the newly threatened area will be offered a public water supply connection at that time.

Question: Which wells have been tested in the 3300 block of 9th Street area? Who conducted the testing and when? Where is the report?

Response: The Illinois EPA last sampled wells in the area in the summer of 1993. Results for several locations in that area for some of the chemicals of concern are shown in the following table. The 3200 block of 8th Street and the 3000 block of 9th Street will be offered public water connections under this Record of Decision.

(in ug/l, or ppb)	1,2-DCA	1,1,1-TCA	PCE	TCE
3200 block, 8th Street	ND	2	4	1
3000 block, 9th Street	ND	2	ND	1
3200 block, 9th Street	ND	2	0.3	2
Drinking Water Standard	5	200	5	5

ND means "not detected" and ug/l or ppb means micrograms per liter or parts per billion.

This information, with other soil and water sampling results, is contained in the Remedial Investigation Report on file at the Ken-Rock Community Center and the Rock River Branch of the Rockford Public Library.

Question: Which wells were tested on South Potter Street. If any have been tested what were the results?

Response: While there were no wells sampled on Potter Street, there are sample results for two locations near Potter. Results for some of the contaminants of concern are shown for these locations: Sewell Street and Hamilton Street.

(in ug/l or ppb)	1,2-DCA	1,1,1-TCA	PCE	TCE
3100 block, Sewell	ND	ND	ND	ND
1700 block, Hamilton	ND	0.8	ND	ND
Drinking Water Standard	5	200	5	5

ND means "not detected" and ug/l or ppb means micrograms per liter or parts per billion.

CONCERNS ABOUT CONDITIONS AND SCHEDULE OF HOOKUPS

Question: What is the planned schedule for public water supply hookups?

Response: Actual connections will probably be made in late 1996. There are several steps that must be taken before work can begin. The Record of Decision on the groundwater remedy must be approved by USEPA and Illinois EPA. After the decision has been made, those parties identified as responsible parties for the contamination will be given an opportunity to conduct the work themselves. If these parties refuse or are unable to do the work, the USEPA and the Illinois EPA can then conduct the work. If the responsible parties conduct the public water connections, their work will be overseen by the Illinois EPA and USEPA to ensure that it meets all standards and requirements.

The City of Rockford may provide hookups earlier at residents' expense, but neither the Illinois EPA nor the USEPA can reimburse these costs.

Question: How many complaints would it take to speed up the process, because several have private wells that are going bad.

Response: It is not a matter of number of complaints. There is a specific process that the USEPA and the Illinois EPA are legally obligated to follow. Once the Record of Decision has been approved and filed, the parties identified as responsible will be given an opportunity to perform their work. See the response to the previous questions.

Question: May residents remove the pumps from their wells before their wells are plugged (cemented in place)?

Response: Yes.

Comment: There are residents on fixed incomes in the "mains only" area who believe that their well water is bad, but who would find it difficult to pay for the service connection from the street to their house.

Response: There are several reasons one might consider water "bad". According to the City of Rockford, even city water can discolor water filters. This discoloration is due to the naturally-occurring iron and manganese deposits present in the groundwater beneath Rockford. The quantities of iron and manganese found in Winnebago County groundwater are considered to be a possible aesthetic concern (appearance, smell, or taste) and not a health concern; consequently, iron and manganese do not have to be removed. People with iron and manganese problems in their private well water may experience similar problems with the Rockford public water supply. If residents prefer, they may remove these minerals from their water by special filters in their house.

A second reason a resident may consider their private well water "bad", is bacterial contamination. The City water supply is treated and regularly tested for bacteria so bacteria should not be a problem with the public water supply. If residents have a question about possible bacterial contamination of their private well, they should contact the Winnebago County Health Department and arrange to have samples from their well analyzed for bacteria.

Under the Superfund program, the Illinois EPA and the USEPA may only provide public water connections to those whose wells meet criteria for the chemicals of concern outlined in the Record of Decision, which in this case are specific volatile organic compounds. Problems with bacteria or minerals, such as iron and manganese, in private wells are the responsibility of individual well owners.

Question: If a private drinking water well in the area of proposed public water supply connections fails, will the Illinois EPA and USEPA pay for connecting the residence to the public water supply even if the connection is made several months before the rest of the connections are constructed?

Response: The Illinois EPA and USEPA are not currently aware of a viable way to fund public water connections for individuals who live in the area designated for public water connections whose wells fail before the contract for the total work is signed. Both Agencies are continuing to explore possible solutions to this problem with the City of Rockford and private organizations. If a solution is found, it will be for a limited number of people only.

Question: With all the budget cuts being proposed and made by Congress, will the Illinois EPA and the USEPA have the funds to carry out this proposal?

Response: The Illinois EPA cannot guarantee funding will be available in the future. The proposed Illinois EPA and USEPA remedy will be chosen in late September of this year. If responsible parties are unable or unwilling to do the work, then the Agencies would request federal funding from the Superfund program. If changes are made in the funding mechanisms of the Superfund program, it is possible that insufficient funds or no funds will be available. If funding is available, the Illinois EPA and the USEPA are committed to doing the work if potentially responsible parties are unwilling or unable to conduct the work themselves.

CONCERNS ABOUT LONG TERM MONITORING AND COMPUTER MODELING

Comment: One group commented that the computer modeling (prediction) on which future actions are to be based may be inadequate to determine future contamination and subsequent health risk.

Response: The Illinois EPA agrees with this assessment which is why the proposed plan provides quarterly sampling of monitoring wells to check the accuracy of the computer prediction. A model is only a tool by which the Agency attempts to evaluate information from which decisions may be made. As the Illinois EPA continues to regularly monitor for

groundwater contaminants, Agency staff will have much more data with which to revise and improve the model. If future sample results indicate an unanticipated level of contamination in drinking water wells representing an unacceptable health threat, connections to public water will be provided at that time.

Comment: Planning based on 70-year lifetime risk may not be protective since there is no comprehensive health study of residents.

Response: The Illinois EPA used a 70-year lifetime model for exposure to contaminants since the USEPA guidance documents use a 70-year lifetime for assessing possible effects of exposure to carcinogens (chemicals and other substances that cause cancer). The Agencies agree that knowledge about the effects of these chemicals is not complete. Much of the current information on possible health effects from contaminants is based upon animal studies (since experimentation on human beings is not allowed) and on exposure to chemicals in the workplace. Workplace exposures usually involve healthy adults exposed for eight hours a day. In order to gather more information about the effects of chemicals on the general public, one must study a large number of people who have been exposed and record their health over a long period of time--even a lifetime. This kind of data is difficult to obtain.

To further our knowledge about trichloroethylene, a National Trichloroethylene (TCE) Registry has been developed in a joint effort between the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the U.S. Dept. of Health. This is a national ongoing study of residents in seven areas in the United States who have been exposed to TCE in their drinking water. Participants will be followed for a lifetime, and southeast Rockford has the most participants in this study. Since this study has only been made for several years, there is not enough information to draw definite conclusions about the possible health effects of specific levels of contaminants.

Comment: Some business groups stated that 70 years of monitoring would be more reasonable/appropriate than 205 years for two reasons.

(1) According to the Illinois EPA, the 70-year plume was based on assumptions most protective of human health, and (2) the monitoring time frame would be based on the same life expectancy assumption as was used to designate the plume area.

Response: The Illinois EPA and USEPA conclude that 205 years is an appropriate time frame for projected monitoring. The Record of Decision designates that the groundwater will be treated by natural attenuation. Natural attenuation refers to the process by which contamination in groundwater is reduced by natural breakdown of compounds, dilution and other natural processes.

Results from modeling (predicting) normal breakdown of volatile organic chemicals in groundwater (i.e., in the absence of air and sunlight) show that it would take at least 205 years for the chemicals at the concentrations found in the most highly contaminated areas of the site

to break down into harmless products, assuming a remedy for the source areas. Naturally, future monitoring data will give an increasingly clearer picture of the rate of contaminant breakdown thereby tracking the progress of treatment by natural attenuation. The length of time for monitoring, as well as the sampling frequency, may decrease if sample results show that overall contaminant concentrations are less than anticipated or concentrations are stable. Monitoring will nevertheless continue as long as groundwater contamination exists at concentrations exceeding health levels.

CONCERNS ABOUT REMAINING GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

Question: Will the groundwater contamination be allowed to spread?

Response: Source area investigations and remedies are included in the third and last operable unit. In part, this operable unit will consider whether some type of containment mechanism will be appropriate in conjunction with other remedies (for the soil and other source material) to restrict the contamination and keep it from spreading. Additional public water hookups will be performed if it is determined that groundwater contamination is spreading farther than anticipated. Next year, the Illinois EPA and the USEPA will propose a remedy (which may include containment) to the public for comment.

Question: How will future contamination of the groundwater be stopped?

Response: State and federal laws that are in place today do not allow the dumping onto the soil or into surface waters chlorinated solvents such as those contaminating the groundwater at this site. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), facilities that generate any type of hazardous chemicals in amounts of 100 kilograms per month or more must comply with certain rules and regulations about storage, transport and disposal. These rules do not allow facilities to openly dump wastes in the manner that occurred in the past. Of course, these laws may be changed by acts of the State legislature or the Congress.

Question: Is the Illinois EPA monitoring the groundwater contamination? Monitoring wells at the end of O'Conner Street and at the intersection of Mayflower and Alpine have not been sampled for over a year.

Response: Illinois EPA has not sampled these monitoring wells since the summer of 1993. The process for the regular monitoring of wells is part of the remediation proposal and is not yet in place. After a remedy is selected, potentially responsible parties will be given an opportunity to perform the monitoring on a regular basis. The Illinois EPA will conduct quarterly monitoring if the potentially responsible parties are unable or unwilling to do so.

Question: What will happen when the Sundstrand plume and the plume to the south (Area 7) come together? Where will they go?

Response: Judging from the groundwater movement, the plume from the Sundstrand property may move initially toward the northwest, then westerly, and, eventually, southwesterly toward the Rock River. Sundstrand currently maintains a groundwater contamination containment system. Whether or not the plume from the Sundstrand plant joins the Area 7 plume in the future will be dependent upon how effective this containment is.

CONCERNS ABOUT REMAINING SOURCE AREAS

Question: What are the plans for source area cleanup.

Response: The groundwater remedy described in the Record of Decision includes a provision that source areas will be remedied. Investigations to further characterize these areas will begin late this fall. A study of possible remedies for the sources will begin later this year and continue through early next year. After the studies have been completed, the Illinois EPA and USEPA will submit the studies, along with a preferred alternative, to the public for comment.

Comment: Is Area 7 is an "orphan" site meaning can potentially responsible parties be identified for Area 7?

Response: The U.S. Dept. of Justice and the USEPA are in the process of identifying those parties who may be potentially responsible for the contamination at this part of the site. The USEPA will decide whether or not there are financially viable potentially responsible parties.

Comment: Business groups support the City of Rockford's effort to negotiate a settlement with the federal government. In this proposed settlement, the City would construct the public water supply connections under the conditions described in the Record of Decision. The city would pay for this work by collecting revenue through a special service taxing district on industry. The business groups would support this special taxing district if there is reasonable certainty that further significant costs (e.g. remedies for the source areas) will not be incurred. They encourage the USEPA, the U. S. Department of Justice and the Illinois EPA to work with the City of Rockford to determine a reasonable cleanup plan for Area 7.

Response: In 1996, after investigations of source areas are complete, the Illinois EPA and the USEPA will complete a study of remedies (including a remedy for Area 7). This study, along with a preferred alternative, will be submitted to the public for comment. The City of Rockford, business groups, and the general public will be welcome to comment on the proposed remedies at that time.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Comment: Just because levels of volatile organic compounds found in residential basements do not exceed that found in the average urban household (from the use of cleaning solvents and other household products) does not mean the levels are safe. Citizens should be educated.

Response: The commenter is correct in that levels of safety should not be determined only by what is commonly found in households. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) not only compared levels found in the southeast Rockford basement air samples to levels found in the average urban household, but they also evaluated the possible effects these levels may have on human health. Based upon that assessment, IDPH concluded that none of the homes sampled demonstrated air concentrations above levels of health concern.

With current information, it is impossible to determine whether VOCs found in residential basements were due solely to the presence of common household products or whether there was some contribution from groundwater. Regardless of the source of VOCs, the concentrations found were below levels of concern and were similar to those found in the average urban household.

If a school or a civic group would like to have a presentation on risks associated with exposures to these types of solvents - and how to reduce such exposures - the Illinois Department of Public Health has offered to do such a presentation. Feel free to contact Ken McCann at IDPH at 217/782-5830.

Question: Is it safe for children to play in Ekberg-Pine Manor Park?

Response: Yes, it is safe. Air samples taken in park areas showed that the air met occupational health standards, as well as guidelines developed to protect the general public (including children) against adverse health effects during short-term and long-term exposures.

OTHER CONCERNS

Question: What is the relationship between the public water supply connections the City of Rockford is constructing and those proposed by the Illinois EPA and USEPA? Are their connections based upon contaminated groundwater also?

Response: There is no relationship between the ongoing Rockford public water supply connections and those connections proposed by Illinois EPA and USEPA. The City's connections are based on their own criteria and are not based on perceived human health threats.

Comment: There was some confusion about the difference between "pumping" wells and "monitoring" wells.

Response: Monitoring wells will be part of an ongoing effort to regularly sample (test) the water for VOCs. The pumping wells that were mentioned in one or more of the remedial options would be for pumping water to the surface for treatment. Since the chosen remedy does not include groundwater treatment, no pumping wells will be needed.

Question: In general, how bad is the groundwater pollution in Winnebago County?

Response: There are a number of areas in Winnebago County experiencing groundwater contamination. The Illinois Department of Public Health has provided such a summary to the person who posed this question. Others who are interested should contact either the Illinois Department of Public Health or the Illinois EPA contacts below.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Public Hearing Process, Hearing Record, Hearing Exhibits, Transcript

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Additional Copies of Responsiveness Summary

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The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director, Mary A. Gade, the Bureau of Land staff, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Hearing Officer thank those individuals and groups who attended the meetings and hearings, as well as those those who sent in

comments, for their interest and participation.

Signed: _____

John D. Williams

John D. Williams

Illinois EPA Hearing Officer

Date: _____

September 20, 1995

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Attachment A

Community Relations Activities at Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site.

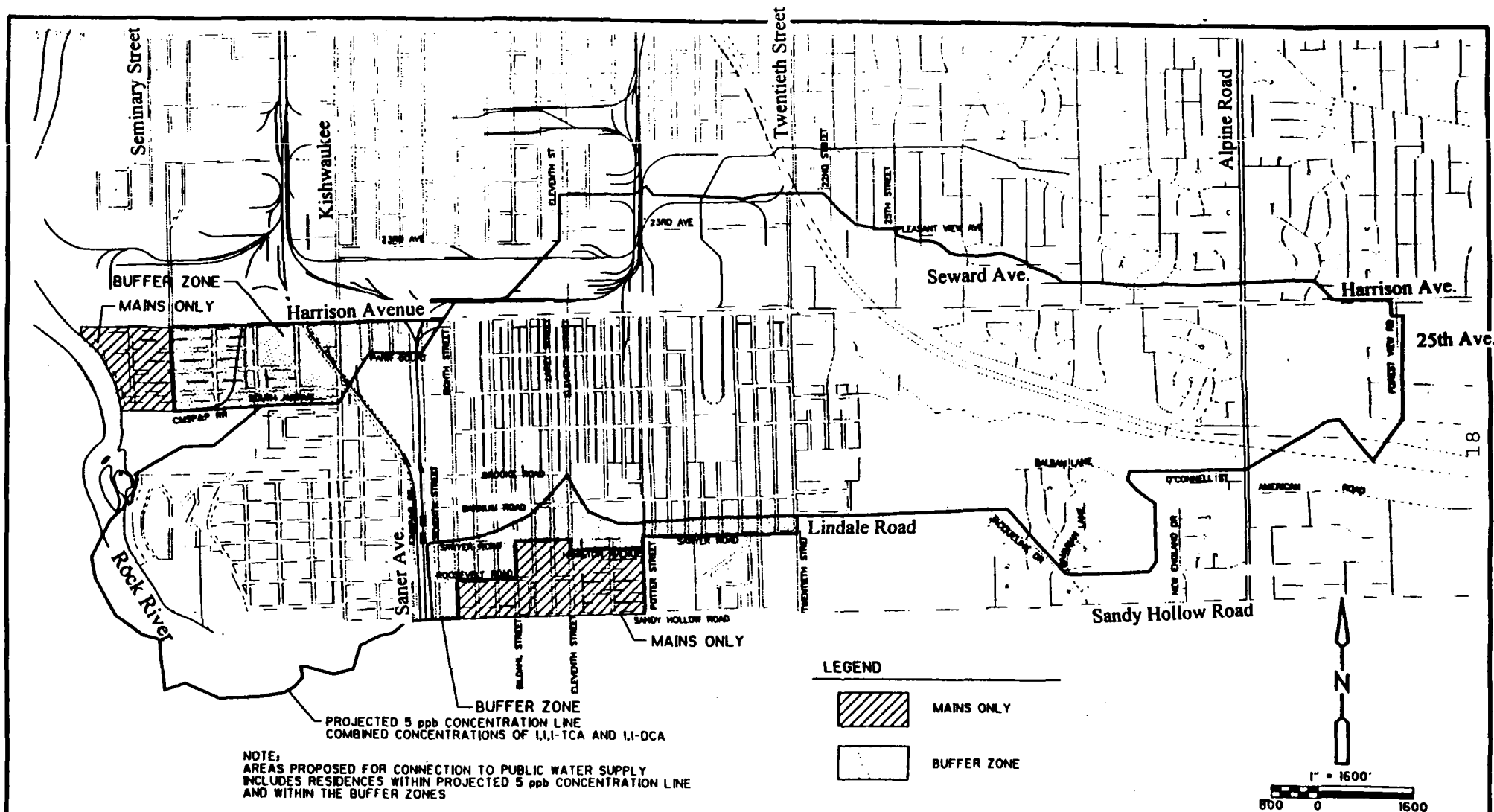
Community relations activities conducted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) at the Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Superfund site included:

- * Illinois EPA conducted community interviews with local officials and community leaders (February, August, and October 1989, and March 1991).
- * Illinois EPA prepared a community relations plan (March 1989, and May 1990).
- * Illinois EPA prepared and mailed a background fact sheet (October 1989).
- * Illinois EPA held a news briefing on the project (October 1989).
- * Illinois EPA held a series of nine public meetings to explain the status of the project, the Superfund process, and planned action (October 1989).
- * Illinois EPA, in cooperation with the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, held a meeting for businesses to explain the project, the Superfund process, and planned action (October 1989).
- * Illinois EPA conducted a private well survey and obtained access for private and industrial well sampling. A project update was given during the survey (March through June 1990).
- * Illinois EPA issued a news release announcing private well samples to be taken for operable unit (June 7, 1990).
- * Illinois EPA issued a news release announcing results of operable unit private well samples (October 29, 1990).
- * Illinois EPA regularly telephoned and met with local officials and community leaders throughout the project to update them.
- * Illinois EPA established repositories at the Ken-Rock Community Center and the Rock River Branch of the Rockford Public Library (October 1989).
- * Illinois EPA held a public comment period on the Operable Unit #1 Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) from March 18 until 5:00 pm, April 23, 1991. Also, Illinois EPA prepared and mailed a fact sheet summarizing Operable Unit #1 RI/FS to a mailing list of more than 4,000 residents and businesses (March 1991); placed an advertisement in the local newspaper announcing the comment period and public hearing (March 16, 23, 30, 1991), and issued a news release publicizing the public hearing (April 15, 1991).

- * The Illinois EPA and USEPA held a series of informational meetings to answer questions about the operable unit feasibility study and proposed plan (April 3, 4, 9 10 and 11, 1991).
- * Illinois EPA issued a news release announcing the public hearing to be held on April 17, 1991 and a media briefing on April 17, 1991.
- * Illinois EPA held a public hearing to receive comments on the operable unit feasibility study and proposed plan (April 17, 1991).
- * A transcript of the above hearing was placed in the repositories (May 1991).
- * Illinois EPA issued a news release announcing the beginning of Phase I of the remedial investigation (May 14, 1991).
- * Illinois EPA prepared and distributed a fact sheet describing planned work for Phase I of the remedial investigation (May 14, 1991).
- * Illinois EPA and USEPA signed Record of Decision for Operable Unit 1 (June 14, 1991).
- * Illinois EPA and USEPA issued a news release announcing the operable Unit Record of Decision (June 26, 1991).
- * Illinois EPA issued a news release announcing the completion of Phase I remedial investigation field work (October 1991).
- * Illinois EPA released a fact sheet describing the results of Phase I of the remedial investigation (October 1992).
- * Illinois EPA issued a news release announcing results of Phase I investigation and public meetings (October 27, 1992).
- * Remedial Action Report certifying that the selected remedy for Operable Unit I was operational and complete (November 19, 1992).
- * Illinois EPA issued a news release and held a media briefing to announce field work for Phase II of the remedial investigation (June 1993).
- * Illinois EPA prepared and released a letter describing round two of private well sampling and work to be conducted in Phase II of the remedial investigation (July 1993).
- * Illinois EPA prepared and released a separate letter to residents living near Area 7 describing the work to be conducted in the Ekberg-Pine Manor Park area (June 1993).
- * Illinois EPA prepared and released a status report on the project (December 1994).

- * Illinois EPA prepared and released a fact sheet describing the results of the entire Phase II remedial investigation (February 1995).
- * Illinois EPA prepared and released a fact sheet to residents around Area 7 describing results of investigations completed at Area 7 (February 1995).
- * Illinois EPA issued a news release announcing Phase II investigation results and public meetings (February 1995).
- * Illinois EPA notified local officials, community groups, neighborhood association leaders, and legislative and congressional staff prior to public releases of information. These notifications were followed by personal briefings when desired (February 1995).
- * Illinois EPA, on request, gave periodic presentations to the environmental subcommittee of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, updating them on the project.
- * As needed, Illinois EPA obtained access for the 77 monitoring wells installed; permission to sample an additional 160 private residential, industrial, and State Water Survey wells; access from property owners in 1992 and in 1993 for soil gas surveys, 55 soil borings, two test pits, and for two rounds of basement air sampling in about 20 homes.
- * Illinois EPA also wrote individual letters to all who gave access for monitoring wells installation and environmental sampling to convey the results found on the owner's property.
- * Illinois EPA published a display advertisement in the Rockford Register Star (July 10, 17, and 24, 1995) announcing the public comment period and hearing for the groundwater remedy. The advertisement also described the feasibility study and proposed plan.
- * Illinois EPA held comment period on groundwater feasibility study and proposed plan (July 14 through August 16, 1995).
- * Illinois EPA issued news release announcing comment period, public meetings and public hearing (July 19, 1995).
- * Illinois EPA held informational meetings in Rockford to discuss groundwater feasibility study and proposed plan. (August 1, 1995 at 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm).
- * Illinois EPA held public hearing to receive oral comments on the groundwater feasibility and proposed plan. (August 9, 1995 at 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm).

ATTACHMENT B



USE RESTRICTIONS